Food subsidy for BPL families

976. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantum of food subsidy being spent on the BPL families is far less as compared to the amount spent as buffer subsidy;

(b) if so, the details of the BPL food subsidy and buffer subsidy spent by Government during the last three years;

(c) the steps being contemplated to minimize the buffer subsidy for maintaining the surplus stock;

(d) whether there is any proposal to provide maximum food subsidy to the BPL families; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The details of BPL food subsidy (including AAY) and buffer subsidy during the last three years are as under:—

(Rs. In crore)

Year	BPL subsidy	Buffer subsidy
1999-2000	3985.34	1753.71
2000-2001	4446.18	4232.75
2001-2002	6217.07	5881.90

(c) The following steps have been taken to minimize the buffer subsidy for maintaining the surplus stock:—

(i) Increase in the scale of issue under the PDS to 35 kg. per family per month *w.e.f.* April, 2002.

(ii) Freezing of Central Issue Prices (CIP) of foodgrains for BPL and APL families.

(iii) Implementation of the AAY scheme.

(iv) Launch of the foodgrains based on Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY).

(v) Allocation of foodgrains under the Food for Work and the Special Component of the SGRY Programme.

(vi) Encouragement to Exports.

(d) and (e) Wheat and rice are being supplied to BPL (including AAY) families at highly subsidized rates at less than 50% of the economic cost. The rate of issue to AAY families is Rs. 3/- per kg. for rice and Rs. 2/- per kg. for wheat. The level of issue of foodgrains has been increased to 35 kg. for BPL and AAY families *w.e.f.* 01.04.2002.

Higher value for buffer stock of sugar

977. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sugar industry is demanding higher value for its buffer stock than the actual open market price;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) No such representation has been received by this Ministry.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Marketing of sub-standard products

978. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Top brands pass on sub-standard soaps says study", which appeared in the "Deccan Chronicle" dated the 27th January, 2003;